

### **Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0026]** Similarly, keeper circuitry 237 will only need to momentarily hold the value on the local bit line 210. The keeper circuitry 237 will need to “keep” the value on the local bit line 210 from the time the split decoder signal 241 decouples the driving signal trace 242 from the local bit line 210 only until the appropriate read enable signal 225 facilitates the coupling of the appropriate data cell output signal trace 230, onto the local bit line 210. Thus, the keeper transistor ~~[[237]]~~ 239 may be a relatively small one, thus reducing the amount of time local bit line 210 takes to respond to the coupling to a data cell output signal trace 230.